



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

tenberg a special course in the history of chemistry, and at Tübingen, Bonn, Vienna and Turin, courses in the history of medicine. At Vienna, too, Dr. Mach gave a course on the history of the mechanical theory of heat.

- (28) *Il Principio dei Lavori Virtuali da Aristotele a Erone d'Alessandria*. Nota del DOTT. GIOVANNI VAILATI. Torino, 1897, 25 pp. 8vo.

This reprint from the "Proceedings of the Royal Academy of Turin" sketches briefly the history of the principle of energy from Aristotle down to Hero of Alexandria—the mechanical questions of the former and the elevator of the latter being treated in some detail.

- (29) *Il Tempo di Reazione semplice studiato in rapporto colla curva pletismografica cerebrale*. PROF. M. L. PATRIZI. Reggio-Emilia, 1897, 15 pp. 8vo.

This article, reprinted from the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, treats of simple reaction time in relation to the cerebral plethysmographic curve. The subject was Emanuele Favre, a boy of 13, a breach in whose cranium made such observations possible. The medium of 126 reactions for stimuli (auditory) when there was great cerebral volume was 332.5σ, when less (116 reactions), 345σ. The author concludes that (1) the oscillations of the specific activity of the cerebral cells and that of the circulation in the brain follow each its own course; (2) the strength of attention manifests itself with a greater rapidity of reaction times, and with a greater regularity of the psychometric curve, together with minor inequalities in the plethysmographic curve of the brain.

- (30) *I Reflessi Vascolari nelle Membra e nel Cervello dell'uomo per vari Stimoli e per varie condizioni fisiologiche e sperimentali*. PROF. M. L. PATRIZI. Reggio-Emilia, 1897, 85 pp. 8vo.

This detailed study, reprinted from the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, is well furnished with curves and tables. The subjects were two boys of 13, Emanuele Favre at Turin and Edoardo Pardini at Sassari, the experiments extending over parts of two years, 1895-1896.

The author's conclusions are: (1) The vascular reflexes in man follow the fundamental laws of localization and irradiation, noted for the reflexes of relational life; (2) the localized vascular reflex takes place in less time than the radiated vascular reflex; (3) the brain exercises a clear influence on the activity of the spinal marrow, even in regard to the reflex movements of the blood vessels; (4) the time of vasal reflection in waking (for sensitive stimuli) is for the arm about 3'', for the leg at about 5''; (5) the vascular reflex of the brain (for sensorial stimuli) has a latency not less than the brachial reflex for the same stimulus; (6) sleep induces a great retardation in the time of vasal reflection, diminishing from the brain to the arm, and inappreciable in the vessels of the lower limb; (7) the blood movements of the brain in sleep, consequent on stimuli, are, doubtless, active and autonomous reflexes; (8) the vascular reflex in the limbs for sensorial stimuli and psychic stimuli takes place in a time (4'' in the arm) longer than the reflex for sensitive stimuli; (9) there is a vascular reaction for each sense stimulated; (10) some sensorial stimuli have greater capacity than others for provoking vasomotor reactions.

- (31) *La Terre champ de l'activité humaine*. M. L. GALLOUÉDEC. Rev. Scientif. (Paris), 4^e Série, Tome VIII (1897), pp. 262-271.

An interesting study of the relation of man to the planet on which he dwells, treating from a French point of view some of the questions discussed by Dr. W. J. McGee in his pamphlet, "Earth, the Home of Man," published in 1894. The influences of relief, situation, soil, climate, are touched up, and the great variation in the value of these factors in the course of human history emphasized. Man first conquered the hill-sides, then the plains, and now bogs and morasses, and even the loftiest mountains are yielding to his skilful attacks.

- (32) *Des conditions d'Arrêt ou d'Avortement de groupes humains*. M. F. SCHRADER. *Ibid.*, pp. 38-44.

According to the author, all changes, nothing is fixed — fauna, flora, customs, habits, civilizations, all pass away. The idea of nineteenth-century peoples that their civilization is stable, is fixed, will endure, is an illusion. Bordeaux will die when vineyards are no more in France. Spain died as lord of the Indies long ago. Egypt, as Herodotus said, is a "gift of the Nile." The cliff dwellers tell a tale of ease and comfort long disused. The Negritos of the Philippines, the Ainos of Japan, the Eskimo, the Lapps, the Bushmen, have all been driven to the wall. But some have their revenges. Resurging through the Spanish strata the old Aztec rules Mexico — in Chili, Peru, Brazil, the redskin's face appears again. It seems impossible entirely to suppress a people, a race. The survival of the fittest takes place even here. They persist who are sons of the soil and of the sun. The force of things makes them to be born again.

- (33) *Les Lois phoniques*. M. MICHEL BRÉAL. *Ibid.*, pp. 34-38.

Phonetic laws are neither fatal nor blind, says the distinguished linguist of the academy. Phonetic changes start from *one* individual, and unless they are welcomed, remain without effect and are soon forgotten. The practical study of phonetics, inaugurated by Gaston Paris, and since pursued with the aid of the phonograph and other instruments, has done much to re-orient us on the question concerning which the older authorities spoke so confidently.

- (34) *Le Transformisme et son interpretation en Crâniologie*. M. G. PAPILLAUT. *Ibid.*, pp. 392.

The persistence of the medio-frontal suture in the skull, *e. g.*, of modern Parisians, and the existence of certain peculiarities in the region of the obelion, concerning which the author has written at greater length elsewhere, are manifestations of a progress, not a regression to an ancestral state, though they may be reckoned among the cases of atavism. The correlation of the metopic suture with intelligence is an interesting point.

- (35) *L'Inanition du noyau cellulaire*. S. M. LOUKIANOW. *Ibid.*, pp. 513-519.

The author gives some account of experiments from which he concludes that the cell nucleus as well as the body, are diminished by complete or incomplete nucleus, a diminution subject to particular laws. The cell nucleus therefore have a biological autonomy of their own. M. Loukianow thinks that our one great gift to the biology of the twentieth century will be not proof of the simplicity of the cell, but of its *organic complexity*.